

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 06834 081710Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----000890 090821Z /23

R 081629Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7142
INFO SECDEF
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 756
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAREUR
CINCUSAFE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 6834

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FOR WASHINGTON LIAISON GROUP

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, MPOL, MILI, PORS, XG, XF, GW, GR

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATION OF TRANSIT/SAFEHAVEN AGREEMENTS TO

FACILITATE EMERGENCY EVACUATION (E&E) FROM GERMANY

REF: (A) LONDON 12318 (DTG 021829Z AUG 78)

(B) BONN 13875 (DTG 291258Z JUL 78)

1. WE APPRECIATE THE NEED TO REMAIN ALERT TO ALL CONDITIONS WHICH MAY AFFECT ANY OF OUR E&E PLANS AND CONCUR THAT WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT WE CAN PROVIDE OPTIMUM SUPPORT TO ALL AMERICAN EVACUEES, SHOULD THE SITUATION ARISE. BUT WE JOINT WITH LONDON IN WONDERING WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE BETTER, AT LEAST INITIALLY, TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH OUR ALLIES ON EVACUEE MATTERS, SHOULD THIS BE CONSIDERED NECESSARY, IN A NATO CONTEXT.

2. EVENTS IN LEBANON OVER THENPAST FEW YEARS WHICH HAVE GIEN RISE TO AMERICAN EVACUEES WHO HAVE EITHER TRANSITED OR BEEN HOUSED IN GREECE, ONCE AGAIN TESTIFY TO CREECE'S TRADITIONAL READINESS TO ACCEPT TRANSIENT EVACUEES. WE FEEL SIMILARYLY WITH OTHER POSTS IN THE CASE OF THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS, HOWEVER, THAT THE PROPOSED IDEA OF A NEGOTIATED BILATERAL AGREEMENT WOULD NEITHER BE NECESSARY NOR POLITICALLY ADVISABLE IN THE CASE OF GREECE AT THIS TIME. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, WE BELIEVE, WILL CONTINUE TO REMAIN HOSPITABLE AND RECEPTIVE TO ASSISTING US WITH RESPECT TO AMERICAN EVACUEES AND RAISING THIS MATTER NOW COULD ONLY SERVE TO CREATE A CONFIDENTIAL

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POLITICAL ISSUE WHERE NONE PRESENTLY EXISTS.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE REMARKS IN REF (B) CONCERNING THE USE OF GREECE IN CONNECTION WITH EVACUEES FROM NORTHERN EUROPE, IT STRIKES US AS IMPRACTICAL TO CONSIDER TRANSPORTING THEM TO GREECE. THIS WOULD INVOLVE TRANSITING NEUTRAL AND, PERHAPS, POTENTIALLY HOSTILE TERRITORY TO A MORE EXPOSED AREA IN A DIRCTION AWAY FROM THE UNITED STATES. IT SEEMS TO US THAT E&E PLANS FOR NORTHERN EUROPE SHOULD BERTHAPS CONCENTRATE ON RETURNING AMERICANS TO THE U.S. RATHER THAN MOVING THEM FURTHER EASTWARD.

MCCLOSKEY

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